Closing of MECL Regional Office at Calcutta

3626. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move to close down the regional office of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited in Calcutta;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) has no Regional Office at Calcutta. However, one of the five Area Offices of the Company is located at Calcutta, the other four being at Nagpur, Hyderabad, Ranchi and Jaipur. The Committees constituted by the Government of India to suggest measures for revival of MECL has, inter-alia, recommended that in order to restructure the Organisation in a two-tier system as against three-tier structure, as a first step, all Area Offices should be closed and Project Managers should report directly to the headquarter. This recommendation of the Committee has not been implemented so far, although some staff redeployment in Area Offices has been effected on administrative grounds.

Role of Central Government in the Award of Mining Contracts in States

3627. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the reaction/stand of Government towards recent decision of Madhya Pradesh Government to permit a private company to excavate and process diamond of Devbhog diamond mines in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Central Government have any role to play in such deals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how does the Central Government propose to play the prescribed role?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) Mineral concessions are granted by the concerned State Governments in accordance with provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, and the rules made thereunder. The Act also provides that in respect of any mineral specified in the Ist Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Govt. "Diamonds" are covered under the aforesaid Ist Schedule of the Act.

As per information furnished by the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, offers were invited by Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation on behalf of the Madhya Pradesh Govt. from Indian citizens and Companies registered in India for prospecting, mining and marketing of diamonds available in 11 Blocks of the state viz Angora block, Majhgaon block, Paharikhera block, Ib-Maini block, Sarangarh block, Pithora block, Behradih block, Kanker Keshkal block, Narainpur Lanjora block, Chhota Dongar block and Tokapal block, each block covering an area of around 4500 to 5000 Sq. Kms. The following four companies submitted their offers:—

1. M/s. National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. Hyderabad (For (1) Pithora Block (2) Kanker-Keshkal Block (3) Chhota Dongar Block (4) Tokapal Block (5) Narainpur-Lanjora Block, & (6) Behradih Block.)

2. M/s. Adamas India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi (For Behradih Block only)

3. M/s. ACC-Rio Tinto Exploration Corpn. Ltd., Bangalore (for Behradih Block only)

4. M/s. B. Vijaykumar Diamond Constorium, Mumbai. (For Behradih Block only)

The aforesaid four offers were evaluated by M/s. ICICI. Keeping in view the technical evaluation made by I.C.I.C.I., the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has decided to accept the offer made by M/s. B. Vijaykumar diamond Constorium for Behradih Block.

Further, the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has decided that the selected company shall form a Joint Sector Company in conjunction with Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation within a fixed time frame.

After the Joint Sector Company is registered, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh shall recommed the application for grant of prospecting licence for prior approval of the Central Govt. as per the provisions of Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

Since the Central Govt. has not received any proposal from the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh as yet for grant of prospecting licence for diamonds to M/s. B. Vijaykumer Diamond Constorium, Mumbai, the question regarding

बिहार में खनिज भंडारों का सर्वेक्षण

3628. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सारे देश के सभी राज्यों में से बिहार में सबसे ज्यादा खनिज भंडार हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने बिहार में खनिज भंडारों का व्यापक सर्वेक्षण किया है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने राज्य और राष्ट्र के हित में ऐसी कोई योजना बनाई है ताकि भूमि के नीचे दबे इन खनिजों का समुचित दोहन किया जा सके; और

(घ) यदि भाग (क) से भाग (ग) तक के उत्तर हां, हों तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि इन भागों के उत्तर न में हों तो उसके क्या कारण है?

इस्पात तथा खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमेश बैस): (क) बिहार अनेक आर्थिक खनिज भंडारों से सम्पन्न है तथा वहां कोयला तथा लौह अयस्क (हेमेटाइट) के वृहदतम संसाधन हैं।

(ख) भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (जीएसआई) ने बिहार में अनेक महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों के लिए सर्वेक्षण किये हैं। उपलब्धियों का ब्यौरा नीचे दिया गया है:-

खनिज	जिले
1. कोयला	बोकारो, हजारीबाग, पलामू, दुमका, पाकुर तथा साहेबगंज।
2. बाक्साइट	रांची, लोहारडागा तथा पलामू।
3. तांबा-सीसा-जस्ता	सिंहभूम, बन्का, देवधर जमुई।
4. स्वर्ण	सिंहभूम, रांची, नालन्दा तथा जमुई।
5. लौह अयस्क	सिंहभूम तथा पलामू।
6. एपेटाइट	सिंहभूम तथा पलामू।
7. एसबेस्टोस	सिंहभूम।
8. फैल्स्पर	गिरिडीह तथा नवादा।
9. पाइरफ्लेक्ट	बोकारो।
10. कार्बनाइट	सिंहभूम।
11. चूनापत्थर	रोहतास तथा बढ़वा।
12. अभ्रक	कोडर्मा तथा गिरिडीह।
13. टिन	गिरिडीह तथा रांची।
14. बर्मीकुलाइट	चैतरा तथा गिरिडीह।
15. लैबिडोलाइट	गिरिडीह तथा कोदर्मा।
16. बैराइट	सिंहभूम तथा गढ़वा।
17. आरसेनिक	कोदर्मा, गिरिडीह तथा नवादा।
18. हीरा	पलामू तथा गुमला।
19. क्वार्टजाइड	मुंगेर।
20. निकिल-कोबाल्ट	सिंहभूम।
21. एन्डालुसाइट	गढ़वा।
22. पाइराइट	रोहतास।
23. गारनेट	हजारीबाग।
24. केराइल	गिरिडीह तथा डोडर्मा।
25. चीनी मिट्टी	सिंहभूम।
26. टेल्क एंड स्टीटाइट	सिंहभूम।

(ग) और (घ) राष्ट्रीय खनिज नीति, 1993 में घोषित की गई थी। जिसके अनुसार विदेशी प्रौद्योगिकी के प्रवेश तथा उच्च मूल्य और दुर्लभ खनिजों के लिए गवेषण तथा खनन में भागीदारी को अपनाया जाएगा।